

Mr. DeBergalis lived most of his life in Buffalo's Lovejoy neighborhood. He took pride in his heritage and community, holding membership in the Big Timers Italian-American Club. In his down time, he enjoyed a variety of activities including gardening, cooking, and stone carving.

Mr. Speaker, I kindly ask you to join me and our colleagues as we stand in this moment to honor the life of Mr. Louis C. DeBergalis and offer our deepest condolences to his family.

EQUAL PAY DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, women played a tremendous role in the 2012 elections—including fighting for equal pay. Today, we commemorate Equal Pay Day, the time typically three months into the new year that it takes for women's wages to catch up to what men were paid in the previous year. This is an annual reminder that the wallets of America's women are not as heavy as they should be because women face pay discrimination. Even when accounting for education, industry, and hours worked there remains a wage gap.

Women's lifetime earnings will never recover from the persistent reduction in wages they receive relative to their male counterparts. Nationwide, women make 77 cents for every dollar earned by a man. While these sound like pennies, in fact they add up to a yearly gap of \$11,084 between full-time working men and women. This decrease in take home pay affects not just women but also their families.

In New York City, which I'm proud to represent, women who work full time are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to men who work full time, adding up to a yearly gap of \$8,429. As a result, New York City's women collectively lose more than \$23 million a year because of the wage gap. This is simply unacceptable for working women and their families in New York and nationwide.

In the 111th Congress, I was proud to serve as the first female Chair of the Joint Economic Committee. At the end of my tenure I issued the report, "Invest in Women, Invest in America: A Comprehensive Review of Women in the U.S. Economy." This comprehensive report included research done by the Committee, testimony from several hearings, and GAO reports assessing the detrimental gender wage gap for part-time workers and older Americans as well as wider discussions of women's continued under-representation in management level positions. As I said in that report, "The decisions we make today will have dramatic impacts on our nation's future economic well-being, and we must carefully consider what those decisions will mean for women, both as consumers and as producers."

There is a remedy to this persistent problem of unequal pay. I have consistently supported the Paycheck Fairness Act, commonsense legislation that gives women the tools to fight wage discrimination and provides stronger workplace protections for working women. This Congress must stand up for working fam-

ilies and provide for the basic rights and fairness of 51 percent of the U.S. population.

34TH ANNIVERSARY OF TAIWAN RELATIONS ACT

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, for sixty years the United States and Taiwan have fostered a close relationship that has been of mutual political, economic, cultural and strategic benefit. When the United States shifted diplomatic relations from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China in January 1979, Congress moved quickly to pass the Taiwan Relations Act (TRA) to ensure that the United States would have continued commercial and cultural relations with Taiwan. This year marks the 34th anniversary of the TRA.

This important piece of legislation codified the basis for relations between the U.S. and Taiwan and has been instrumental in maintaining peace, security and stability across the Taiwan Strait.

Today, Taiwan is one of the leading U.S. trading partners and, in my district, accounts for the second-largest percentage of cargo activity at the Port of Long Beach.

It is my hope that the United States and Taiwan will continue to work together to promote enduring peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region.

HONORING MS. LANA FELTON-GHEE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Lana Felton-Ghee, a constituent of Pennsylvania's 1st District, for her 66th birthday.

Born, raised and educated in Philadelphia, Lana is well known for her successes in business and politics. Graduating from Temple University, Ms. Felton-Ghee led a longtime, high profile career in marketing and public relations. She established her own business in 1995, Lana Felton-Ghee Associates, Inc., and took on challenging projects in our area and throughout the country. Her expertise was recognized nationally, and she became a key consultant on campaigns for figures such as Mayor Ed Rendell and President Bill Clinton.

Throughout her busy and successful career, Ms. Felton-Ghee also made time for a fulfilling family life and is a proud mother of four and grandmother of ten.

I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues help me in honoring Ms. Felton-Ghee and her birthday. Ms. Felton-Ghee is the epitome of a life-long Philadelphian and a model citizen. We can all learn something from her fortitude and her commitment to her career, her city and her family. She has been known to say that "there is no place like Philadelphia," but Philadelphia would not be nearly as bright a place without her vibrant and dedicated personality.

CONTRACT SCREENER REFORM AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the "Contract Screener Reform and Accountability Act."

Together with my colleagues in the House, Representative NITA LOWEY of New York and CEDRIC RICHMOND of Louisiana, I am introducing this legislation to reform, enhance oversight of, and provide greater workforce protections to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) contract screener program known as the Screening Partnership Program (SPP). I am very pleased that a companion measure is being introduced in the other chamber by Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio.

Specifically, the "Contract Screener Reform and Accountability Act" would:

Bar subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations from providing for security screening at domestic airports under the SPP;

Mandate covert testing of contract screeners so that their performance can be monitored and compared to airports where screening is carried out by TSA and protect the integrity of those tests by imposing penalties for compromising such testing;

Require security breaches at airports with contracted screening services to be reported;

Ensure national security through requiring training for the proper handling of sensitive security information at SPP airports;

Provide new compensation, benefits, and whistleblower protections for screeners; and

Enhance customer service for the flying public who are screened at SPP airports.

With enactment of the "FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012" (P.L. 112-95), subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations are permitted, for the first time since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, to provide screening services at our nation's commercial service airports. This change in law was enacted without debate about the security implications and despite the need, in the current economic climate, to encourage opportunities for U.S. companies rather than outsourcing work and diverting taxpayer dollars to subsidiaries of foreign owned corporations.

The reforms concerning covert testing are necessary in light of the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General's previous finding that the contractor for screening services at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), the nation's largest and busiest airport with contract screeners, compromised covert testing.

It is imperative that the integrity of covert security testing be protected so that we are assured that contract screeners perform at the same level as Transportation Security Officers.

TSA has reported numerous security breaches occurring regularly at airports with contract screeners, including at SFO. These breaches include contract screener personnel not detecting prohibited items such as knives and bullets in carry-on baggage, improperly clearing passengers without verification of their identity, and not conducting the required additional screening of passengers referred to secondary screening.

For example, on August 21, 2009, a passenger at SFO alarmed the walk-through